

AAUW BENNINGTON BRANCH BOARD MEETING

Monday, November 7, 2022 at 3 p.m.

Via Zoom Video Conferencing

Present: Jan Day, Julie Haupt, Madeline Kennedy, Suzanne Kirkpatrick, Julie Mackaman, Sheila Mullineaux, Dawn Rodrigues, Kathy Wagenknecht

Call to Order and Approval of Minutes. President Wagenknecht called the meeting to order at 3:05 p.m. Kirkpatrick moved, Day seconded that the minutes of the May 16, 2022 board meeting be approved; motion carried. Secretary Mackaman reminded board members to review minutes of each meeting as soon as possible after Wagenknecht posts them on the website and come to the subsequent meeting prepared to provide an update on any action items.

Treasurer's Report

Treasurer Day presented a financial report for the period July 1, 2021 through June 30, 2022, showing an opening balance of \$7,860 and ending balance of \$8,200, which, less a reserve of \$2,615, left a balance available of \$5,585. Her year-to-date summary showed an October 31, 2022 checkbook balance of \$9,240. Setting aside the \$2,615 in reserve, we have over \$2,100 in operating funds and over \$4,100 for scholarships. She added that scholarships totaling \$1,850 were paid in September 2022.

Membership

Wagenknecht said that we currently have 62 members. In discussion about web-based communications given several members' limited access to computers and varying degrees of computer fluency. Mackaman offered to identify which members need to receive a **newsletter hard copy** (first page with its listing of programs) and **e-blasts hard copies** announcing program updates, and at least temporarily mail them to those members. Suggestions to help our members more effectively use our website included a hands-on branch orientation program with such activities as a **Website Scavenger Hunt**.

A newly reconstructed **Membership Committee** comprising chair McShane, Mullineaux and Rodrigues (from previous board meeting, removing Judy Murphy due to health issues) will update and revise the **membership brochure** originated by Gudrun Hutchins and post it as a printable document on our website. Rodrigues or McShane will bring printouts of the brochure to our meetings to hand out to prospective members. Wagenknecht will post a **membership list** in a password protected feature of the website. Members will be directed to print out copies of the list from the website, or if they are unable to do so, to inform secretary Mackaman to request a hard copy. The committee will also meet to discuss resuming a pandemic-abandoned program of hosting a **new member reception**. Discussed but unresolved was the idea of **member profiles** published in the newsletter publication and archived on the website. It was suggested that the holiday party include time for **new members introductions**, and that the as yet unfilled February 2023 program be organized around a **Getting to Know You** theme, including, for example, small groups or pairs to interview each other toward member-to-member exchange and the possible follow-up inclusion as member profiles for the newsletter and website archive.

Diversity Officer

Wagenknecht welcomed Julie Haupt to the board in her role in the newly created position of Diversity Officer. Haupt, who attended a national AAUW webinar about diversity, said that diversity often refers to race, but in our community also includes, for example, socio-economic, education and age diversity.

Programs

Mullineaux distributed in advance of the meeting an outline of 2022-23 programs, several of them to be co-presented with the UU Fellowship of Bennington. Among the ideas suggested for future programs was a the “Getting to Know You” member-to-member program (see above) and a discussion of affirmative action after the Supreme Court ruling on cases involving race in college admissions. Haupt agreed to contact local college admissions or diversity officers about their efforts to diversify their student bodies, especially if the Supreme Court rules against race as an admissions factor, toward a possible program in Fall 2023.

Scholarships

Wagenknecht reported that due to health and other personal issues, Scholarship Committee members Gudrun Hutchins, Jennifer Kern, Judy Murphy are taking a leave from the committee. In order to proceed with scholarships for the Spring 2023 semester, Wendy Lyons (herself a former recipient of multiple scholarships) has agreed to replace Kern as the liaison with CCV and to serve on the committee along with Day, McShane, and (in a post-meeting addition) Mary Feidner. Wagenknecht also said that the Marge Carter Book Awards have been integrated into the scholarship program and no longer exist as a separate fund.

Theatre Fundraiser

Kennedy reported that in August 2022 we sold 21 tickets to the Oldcastle Theatre production of *Sheep Dog*, and netted \$553 for our scholarship fund, \$190 in net ticket sales and \$363 in donations.

Board Elections

Wagenknecht reminded the board that only the three officer positions (president, secretary, treasurer) are elected and that the other board positions, unelected, are members overseeing program-related branch activities. She suggested that each of us should be recruiting an “understudy” to learn our duties and prepare to replace us. Kennedy offered to distribute the board job descriptions she compiled from the descriptions submitted by board members in 2018 for review and updating.

Adjournment. Mullineaux moved, Kirkpatrick seconded that the meeting be adjourned. Motion carried; meeting adjourned at 4:15 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Julie Mackaman
Secretary

Attachment: Financial Report Summary



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